6 Safety Element

6.1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Ensuring the safety of community members, through protection from hazards, is an essential service of public agencies and a critical priority for maintaining community health and welfare. The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify the natural and man-made public health and safety hazards that exist within the city, and to establish preventative and responsive policies and programs to mitigate their potential impacts. Specifically, this element addresses seismic and geologic hazards, flooding, fire, and other hazards, as well as related aspects of law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and coordinated response measures.

RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW

Government Code Section 65302(g) requires each California city to include within its General Plan a Public Safety Element that addresses the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismic and other geologically-induced hazards, flooding, and fires. The Safety Element is required to include mapping of known seismic and other geological hazards, and it must identify flood hazards and urban and wildland fire hazards. Where applicable, it must also address evacuation routes, peak load water supply requirements, minimum road widths, and clearances around structures. The Safety Element also includes required information on fire protection, law enforcement, emergency preparedness, and the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

RELATIONSHIP OTHER ELEMENTS

The Safety Element is strongly correlated to the Land Use, Conservation, and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Elements. The Land Use Element includes consideration of fire, seismic, flooding and other hazards in land use designations and their density and intensity standards. Through restrictions on the development of hazardous areas, the Land Use Element supplements the policies of this Element.

Related to the Conservation and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Elements, areas subject to severe hazards, especially those related to seismic or flood-prone conditions, are designated for a reduced level of development or open space, or development is required to be set back from areas impacted by these factors. Additionally, the Safety Element is related to the Circulation Element in that good street design and accessibility of the transportation system is vitally important in providing emergency services.

RELATIONSHIP TO VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

While the Safety Element has connections to many of the values in the Belmont Community Vision, it most closely supports:

- Belmont's small-town ambiance sets itself apart as a tranquil, inclusive, safe and desirable place to live, work and play.
- Belmont is a wonderfully safe, culturally diverse, and supportive place to raise a family.

6.2 SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

SEISMICITY AND GROUND SHAKING

Fault activity has the potential to result in ground shaking, which can be of varying intensity depending on the nature or profile of earthquake activity, proximity to that activity, and local soils and geology conditions. Earthquake damage to structures can be caused by ground rupture, liquefaction, and ground shaking. The level of damage at a location resulting from an earthquake will depend upon the magnitude of the event, the epicenter distance, the response of geologic materials, and the design and construction quality of structures.

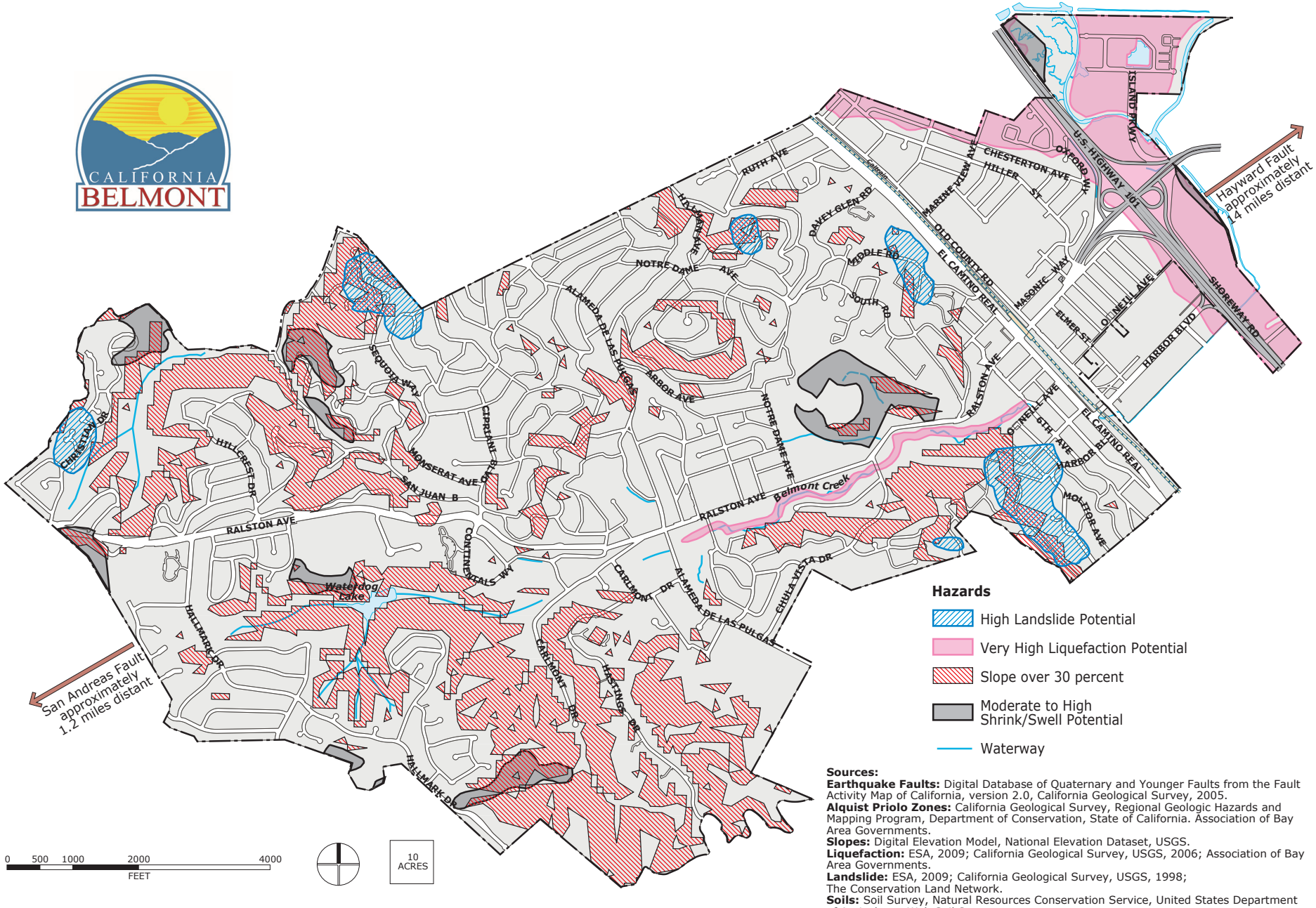
The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the most seismically active regions of the United States. There are approximately 30 known faults in the Bay Area that are considered capable of generating earthquakes. A major earthquake is the worst expected hazard in the city. While there are no active fault lines within the city boundary, the closest fault zone, the San Andreas Fault Zone – Peninsula, is located approximately one mile from the city's western boundary. The San Andreas Fault Zone is the predominant fault system in California and has generated some of the largest and most destructive earthquakes in history.

Figure 6-1 shows potential seismic and geological hazard locations in the City of Belmont. In Belmont, surface rupture and liquefaction from seismic events may result in low to moderate risk to the northeast corner of the city and along Belmont Creek. As of August 2017, the California Geologic Survey released preliminary mapping of Seismic Hazard Zones in the San Mateo Quadrangle, which includes the Planning Area. The preliminary Seismic Hazard Zones suggest that a substantial amount of land in the Planning Area is at risk of liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides. In addition, ground shaking could bring widespread and serious damage to Belmont. The entire city, as with most regions in San Mateo County, has a MMI (Modified Mercalli Intensity) Shaking Severity Level of 8 (Very Strong).

The City's Municipal Code requires that geotechnical studies are completed prior to issuance of a building or grading permit for

Belmont is characterized by hillside neighborhoods where geologic hazards may exist.

FIGURE 6-1: SEISMIC AND GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS



Sources:
Earthquake Faults: Digital Database of Quaternary and Younger Faults from the Fault Activity Map of California, version 2.0, California Geological Survey, 2005.
Alquist Priolo Zones: California Geological Survey, Regional Geologic Hazards and Mapping Program, Department of Conservation, State of California. Association of Bay Area Governments.
Slopes: Digital Elevation Model, National Elevation Dataset, USGS.
Liquefaction: ESA, 2009; California Geological Survey, USGS, 2006; Association of Bay Area Governments.
Landslide: ESA, 2009; California Geological Survey, USGS, 1998;
The Conservation Land Network.
Soils: Soil Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Web Soil Survey.
Fire and Flood Hazards: City of Belmont, 2014.

sites that are located in areas of potential seismic and geological hazards, including sites at risk of expansive soils, moderate to low stability of cuts, fair to poor earthquake stability, fair to poor foundation conditions, and high susceptibility to landsliding. Any required geotechnical reports are reviewed by the City's building official and the City's geologist prior to issuance of a building or grading permit.

SOIL PROPERTIES

Soil properties have a significant bearing on land planning and development. The type of soil will affect liquefaction, shrink swell potential, and landslide potential. Liquefaction is the rapid transformation of saturated, loose, fine-grained sediment (such as silt and sand) into a fluid state as a result of severe vibratory motion. As a result, this can cause structures to lose foundation-bearing capacity. Much of the lowland areas of East Belmont, as well as the land near Belmont Creek have potential liquefaction hazards, as shown in Figure 6-1. The term "shrink swell" refers to the property of many clays to swell when wetted and shrink when dried. Soils with high shrink swell potential make them poor candidates for construction of tall buildings or basements. Figure 6-1 shows that soils in Belmont with high shrink swell potential are primarily located in various areas of the Belmont hills, including a large area near Notre Dame de Namur University.

Landslides, also referred to as slope failures, include many phenomena that involve the downslope displacement and movement of material, either triggered by static (i.e., gravity) or dynamic (i.e., earthquake or over-saturation) forces. Exposed rock slopes may undergo rockfalls, rockslides, or rock avalanches, while soil slopes may experience shallow soil slides, rapid debris flows, and deep-seated rotational slides. Landslide-susceptible areas are characterized by steep slopes, downslope creep of surface materials, and unstable soil conditions. In Belmont, this hazard is primarily located in various areas of northwest Belmont, but there is one large hazard area in southwest Belmont in the Sunnyslope neighborhood, as shown in Figure 6-1. Landslides may occur on slopes of 15 percent or less, but the probability is greater on steeper slopes. Above 30 percent, conventional single pad type construction is unsuitable, and construction requires substantial grading and retaining walls. Slopes in Belmont that are greater than 30 percent are also shown on Figure 6-1 and are primarily located in the western area of the city, especially in the Western Hills and San Juan Hills plan areas.

Belmont Creek and other lowland areas of East Belmont have potential liquefaction hazards.

6.3 FLOODING HAZARDS

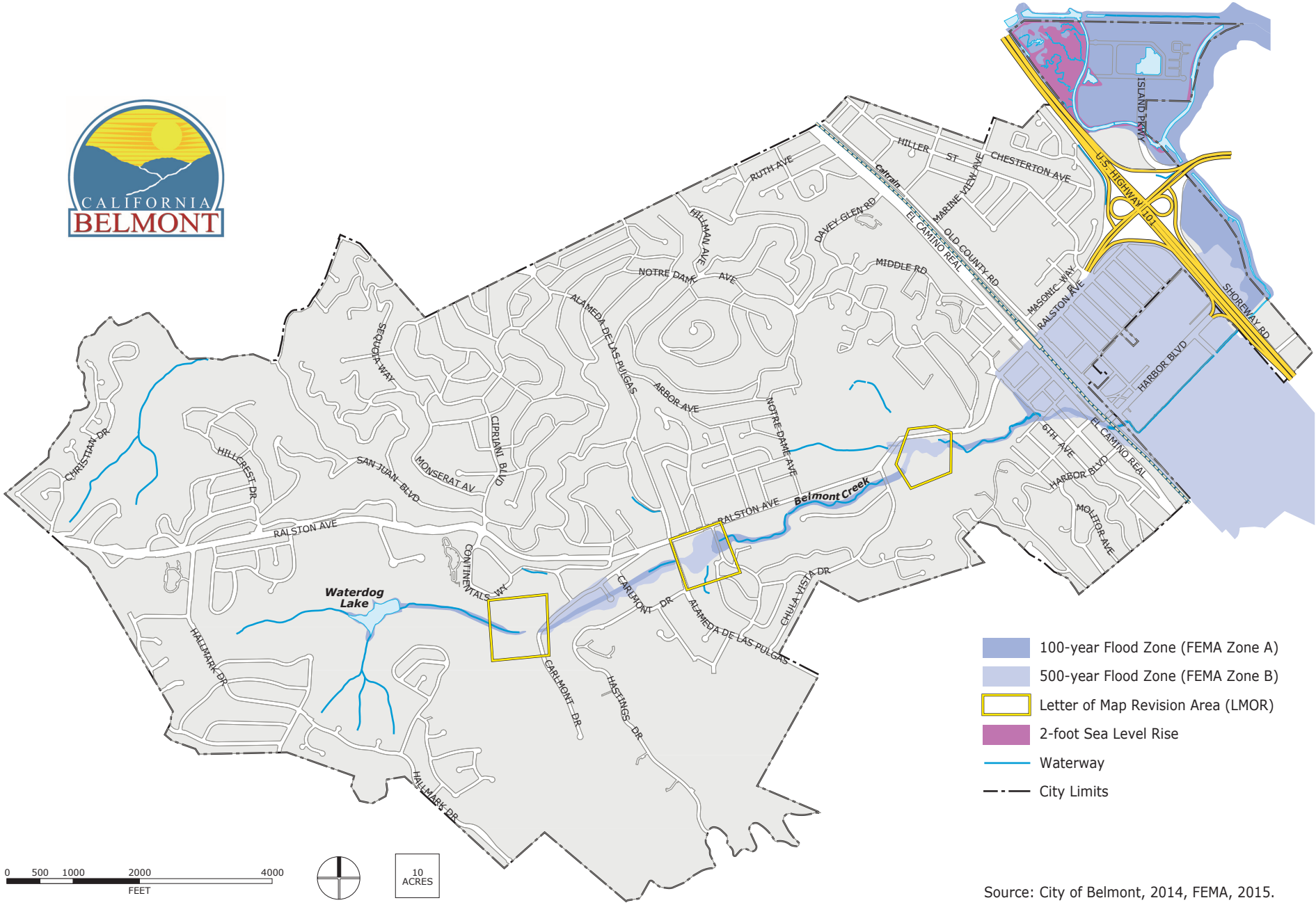
Floodplains are areas of land located adjacent to rivers or creeks that are subject to recurring inundation, or flooding. Preserving or restoring natural floodplains helps with flood loss reduction and benefits and improves water quality and habitat. Floods are typically described in terms of their statistical frequency. For example, a 100-year floodplain describes an area within which there is a one percent probability of a flood occurring in any given year. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map identifies flooding hazards of various intensities, including 100-year and 500-year Flood Zones. Generally, no or limited development should be proposed on land that falls within the 100-year Flood Zone.

There are areas in Belmont that fall within the 100-year Flood Zones, as shown in Figure 6-2. In southwestern Belmont, a 100-year Flood Zone is located near Water Dog Lake and generally runs the length of Belmont Creek down to El Camino Real. However, there are several Letter of Map Revision areas along Belmont Creek, where FEMA has modified the hazard area based on the placement of fill in the existing regulatory floodway. The three Letter of Map Revisions areas are located near Carlmont Drive, near the intersection of Alameda de las Pulgas and Ralston Avenue, and on Ralston Avenue near Twin Pines Park. East of US 101, 100-year Flood Zone areas include the O'Neill Slough and marshland as well as some parcels with offices and residential development. In recent years, the lower sections of Belmont Creek have experienced flooding during extreme winter events, and the City is currently partnering with a number of stakeholders and agencies in the region to develop and implement a long-term approach to address creek maintenance and improvements.

Dam inundation can be caused by the release of impounded water from structural failure or overtopping of a dam. In the western hills, Notre Dame Dam was built on Belmont Creek to create the reservoir known as Water Dog Lake. While the land is owned by Notre Dame de Namur University, the earthen dam is leased and maintained by the City of Belmont. The facilities are periodically inspected by the State of California Division of Dam Safety and the City of Belmont Department of Public Works. Updating the dam's emergency action plan is an implementation priority of this General Plan.

Sea level rise resulting from global climate change has the potential to alter the frequency and magnitude of flooding in low-lying areas of East Belmont. According to the City's Climate Action Plan (which is discussed in more detail in the Conservation Element), historical records show that the sea level in San Francisco Bay has risen about 7 inches over the past 100 years. Figure 6-2 shows

FIGURE 6-2: FLOOD ZONES



Source: City of Belmont, 2014, FEMA, 2015.

Most of the hazardous materials sites in Belmont are Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs).

areas of Belmont that could be at risk if the sea level rose by 2 feet, including arease near US 101 and the O'Neill Slough. The Climate Action Plan contains adaptation strategies and measures to promote resiliency to climate change impacts, including sea level rise and increased flooding. The City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan also addresses climate adaptation and resiliency strategies

6.4 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND OPERATIONS

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, State, or local agency, and/or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. The California Code of Regulation defines a hazardous material as a substance that, because of physical or chemical properties, quantity, concentration, or other characteristics, may either (1) cause an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating, illness or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of, or otherwise managed. Hazardous materials include a wide variety of substances commonly used in households and businesses. Motor oil, paint, solvents, lawn care and gardening products, household cleaners, gasoline, and refrigerants are among the diverse range of substances classified as hazardous materials.

Hazardous wastes are defined in the same manner. Hazardous wastes are hazardous materials that no longer have practical use, such as substances that have been discarded, discharged, spilled, contaminated, or are being stored prior to proper disposal. Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are classified according to four properties: toxic (causes human health effects), ignitable (has the ability to burn), corrosive (causes severe burns or damage to materials), and reactive (causes explosions or generates toxic gases). Nearly all businesses and residences generate some amount of hazardous waste. Certain businesses and industries, including gas stations, automotive service and repair shops, printers, dry cleaners, and photo processors, generate larger amounts of such substances. Hospitals, clinics, and laboratories generate medical waste, much of which is also potentially hazardous.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITES

Releases, leaks, or disposal of chemical compounds, such as petroleum hydrocarbons, on or below the ground surface can lead to contamination of underlying soil and groundwater. Disturbance of a previously contaminated area through grading or excavation operations could expose the public to health hazards from physical contact with

contaminated materials or hazardous vapors. Improper handling or storage of contaminated soil and groundwater can further expose the public to these hazards, or potentially spread contamination through surface water runoff or air-borne dust.

Areas with known or suspected release of hazardous materials to soil and groundwater, and where current clean up activities monitored by the State Water Quality Control Board or the California Department of Toxic Substances are active, are shown in Figure 6-3 and listed in Table 6-1. The sites are primarily located in eastern Belmont, concentrated in the Belmont Village PDA and the HIA. Most of the sites in Belmont are Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUSTs) sites; many of these sites are automobile-related, such as gas stations or auto repair shops. Two school sites – associated with Ralston Middle School and Carlmont High School – are listed as under investigation. Belmont also currently has sites undergoing remediation for contamination with hazardous materials. Some contaminated sites are on vacant parcels or properties with the potential to redevelop. Contamination does not render these sites unusable, but may require time and funding for cleanup, and in some cases, may limit allowable land uses.

REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

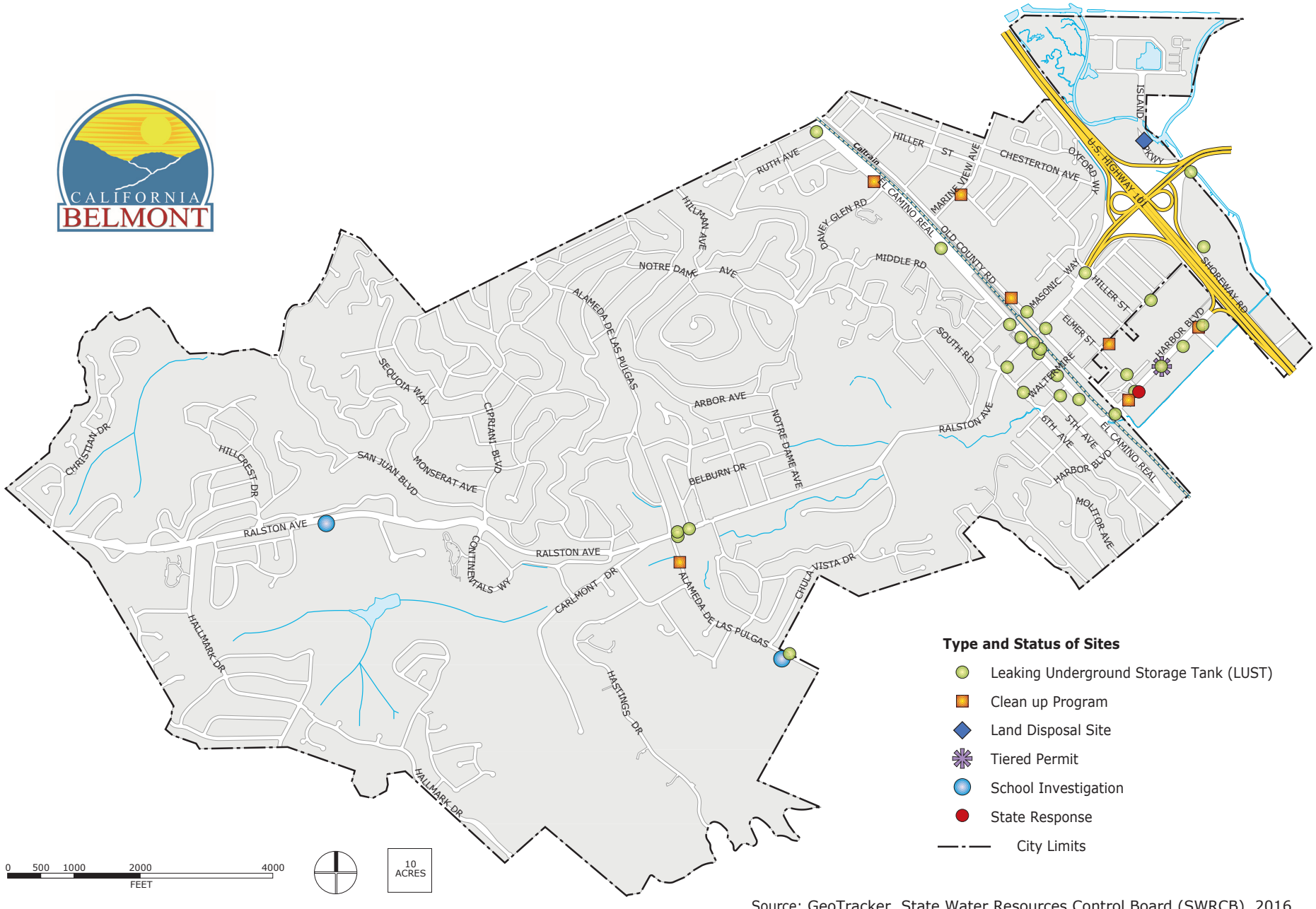
Various State and federal agencies govern the proper storage, handling, and transport of hazardous materials. Rethink Waste is a program offered by the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, which is a joint powers authority of twelve public agencies in San Mateo County. Rethink Waste provides door-to-door household hazardous waste pickup service for Belmont residents. San Mateo County handles hazardous waste, organizing both curbside pickup of certain household wastes, and appointments at hazardous waste collection events for other items. The County is also responsible for issuing permits for the storage of hazardous waste. The County's Health System also has a Hazardous Waste Generator Program, authorized by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to inspect and regulate non-permitted hazardous waste generators. The Belmont Fire Protection District provides a county-wide hazardous materials response team through a contract with San Mateo County.

6.5 UTILITIES

Uilities such as electricity; natural gas; telecommunications including wireless communications, telephone, and internet; and cable television are considered common elements of contemporary life. It is necessary

Autobody shops and gas stations can be potential sources of toxic air contaminants (TACs).

FIGURE 6-3: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SITES



Source: GeoTracker, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), 2016
Envirostor, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), 2016

TABLE 6-1: Hazardous Materials Sites in the Planning Area

Site Name[1]	Address	Status[2]
Cleanup Program Site		
Immaculate Heart Of Mary	1040 Alameda de Las Pulgas	Completed - Case Closed
Brusco Property	248 Harbor Blvd	Open - Site Assessment
PKS Cleaners	390 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Former Baron-Blakeslee (Purex)	511 O'Neill Ave	Open - Remediation
Circraft Inc	519 C Marine View Ave	Open - Inactive
New Mode Cleaners	615 Harbor Blvd	Open - Inactive
Quan Property	847 Old County Rd	Open - Inactive
Land Disposal Site		
Belmont Island Landfill	700 Island Parkway	Open - Inactive
Lust Cleanup Site		
Wong Family Trust	1000 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Southern Pacific	1001 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Chevron 9-3260	1001 Shoreway Rd	Completed - Case Closed
Belmont Car Wash	1051 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
City Of Belmont-Corp Yard	110 Sem Ln	Completed - Case Closed
Howard Tire Company	120 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Texaco	1200 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Acme Movers	1309 Elmer St	Completed - Case Closed

TABLE 6-1: Hazardous Materials Sites in the Planning Area

Site Name[1]	Address	Status[2]
Lo Coco Liquors	1340 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Carlmont High School	1400 Alameda De Las Pulgas	Completed - Case Closed
Bogenhuber Property	1510 Old County Rd	Completed - Case Closed
Story's Brake Services	1670 Old County Rd	Completed - Case Closed
Shell Oil	2000 Ralston Ave	Completed - Case Closed
Belmont Plaza	2040 Ralston Ave	Completed - Case Closed
Chevron 9-2712	2045 Ralston Ave	Completed - Case Closed
Brusco Property	248 Harbor Blvd	Completed - Case Closed
Raker Roofing	333 O'Neill Ave	Completed - Case Closed
Baymont Properties	425 Harbor Blvd	Completed - Case Closed
Arco #0613	470 Ralston Ave	Completed - Case Closed
Williams & Burrows Inc	500 Harbor Blvd	Completed - Case Closed
U-Haul #708-78	554 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Sam Trans	580 Quarry Rd	Completed - Case Closed
Peninsula Card Lock	610 Harbor Blvd	Completed - Case Closed
Unocal Station #4519	699 Ralston Ave	Completed - Case Closed

TABLE 6-1: Hazardous Materials Sites in the Planning Area

Site Name[1]	Address	Status[2]
Apollo Oil	701 Harbor Blvd	Completed - Case Closed
City Of Belmont Fire Dept	875 O'Neill Ave	Completed - Case Closed
Vancea Auto Services	900 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Post Office Parlor	935 Old County	Completed - Case Closed
Chevron 9-0578, Former	990 El Camino Real	Completed - Case Closed
Belmont 76 Service Center	995 Ralston Ave	Completed - Case Closed
School Investigation		
Carlmont High School Music Building	1400 Alameda De Las Pulgas	Inactive - Action Required
Ralston Middle School	2675 Ralston Ave	Inactive - Needs Evaluation
State Response		
Western Grinding Services	601 Harbor Blvd	Certified
Tiered Permit		
Wesgo, Inc.	477 Harbor Blvd	Inactive - Needs Evaluation
Voluntary Cleanup		
PG&E San Mateo Pipeline	Canada Rd	Certified

TABLE 6-1: Hazardous Materials Sites in the Planning Area

Site Name[1] Address Status[2]

Notes:
1. Site Definitions:
Cleanup Program Site: regulates and oversees the investigation and cleanup of 'non-federally owned' sites where recent or historical unauthorized releases of pollutants to the environment, including soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, have occurred.
Land Disposal Site: Waste management units where waste is discharged on land for treatment, storage, and disposal. These sites include waste piles, surface impoundments, and landfills.
LUST Cleanup Site: The prevention, cleanup, and enforcement of water degradation or pollution associated with underground storage tanks. Underground storage tanks are defined as one or more tanks, including pipes connected thereto, that is used for the storage of hazardous substances and that is substantially or totally beneath the surface of the ground.
School Investigation: Identifies proposed and existing school sites that are being evaluated by DTSC for possible hazardous materials contamination. School sites are further defined as "Cleanup" (remedial actions occurred) or "Evaluation" (no remedial action occurred) based on completed activities. All proposed school sites that will receive State funding for acquisition or construction are required to go through a rigorous environmental review and cleanup process under DTSC's oversight.
State Response: Identifies confirmed release sites where DTSC is involved in remediation, either in a lead or oversight capacity. These confirmed release sites are generally high-priority and high potential risk.
Tiered Permit: Tiered permitting is a five-level hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) authorization program. The first three tiers are designed to regulate on-site treatment of hazardous waste. The fourth tier, or "Standardized Permit" is for off-site treatment or storage of wastes that would not require a federal permit, such as waste oil storage or precious metal recovery services. The final tier is that of a full treatment, storage or disposal (TSD).
Voluntary Cleanup: A DTSC program that allows motivated parties who are able to fund the evaluation, investigation, cleanup, and DTSC's oversight to move ahead at their own pace to investigate and remediate their sites.
2. Status Definitions:
Certified: Identifies completed sites with previously confirmed release that are subsequently certified by DTSC as having been remediated satisfactorily under DTSC oversight.
Completed – Case Closed: A closure letter or other formal closure decision document has been issued for the site.
Inactive – Action Required: Identifies non-active sites where, through a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) or other evaluation, DTSC has determined that a removal or remedial action or further extensive investigation is required.
Inactive – Needs Evaluation: Identifies non-active sites where DTSC has determined a PEA or other evaluation is required.
Open – Inactive: No regulatory oversight activities are being conducted by the Lead Agency.
Open – Remediation: An approved remedy or remedies has/have been selected for the impacted media at the site and the responsible party (RP) is implementing one or more remedy under an approved cleanup plan for the site.
Open – Site Assessment: Site characterization, investigation, risk evaluation, and/or site conceptual model development are occurring at the site.

Source: GeoTracker, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB); Envirostor, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), 2016.

to ensure these services are available and adequate to meet the demands of all Belmont's residents and businesses. Water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities are discussed in the Conservation Element.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS

Infrastructure

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) is the electric utility of the Peninsula District, which covers all of San Mateo County and portions of Santa Clara County. Within Belmont's city limits, PG&E's main electric transmission line runs under Old County Road. PG&E's main natural gas transmission pipelines run under Old County Road, Harbor Boulevard out to Redwood Shores, and under Ralston Avenue west of Alameda de las Pulgas out to Interstate 280, as shown in Figure 6-4.

Table 6-2 and Table 6-3 show the existing electric and gas infrastructure in the Peninsula District, which includes San Mateo County and portions of Santa Clara County. Data specific to the city of Belmont is not currently available.

Demand

Tables 6-4 and 6-5 show the electricity and gas consumption in San Mateo County from 2009 to 2013 by land use. As shown in Table 6-4, electricity consumption in San Mateo County decreased by 10 percent between 2009 and 2013. Gas consumption, on the other hand, shows little fluctuation throughout the five year period.

Supply

PG&E's power sources include both utility-owned power plants and external energy-producing facilities. Currently, PG&E owns an extensive hydroelectric system, one operating nuclear power plant, one operating natural gas-fired power plant, and another gas-fired plant under construction. PG&E also cooperates with individual renewable energy producers and promotes use of clean energy. The precise breakdown of energy supply data to the Planning Area is unavailable.

In Belmont, PG&E's major gas transmission lines run under Old County Road, under Harbor Boulevard out to Redwood Shores on the eastern side of US 101, and under Ralston Avenue west of Alameda de las Pulgas out to Highway 92 and I-280.

Maintenance and Improvement

PG&E continues to upgrade the electric and gas infrastructure in the Peninsula District. Key initiatives for electric utilities include replacing and upgrading equipment, installing Smart Grid to increase system reliability and reduce power outages, and expanding the overall system capacity. In addition, in 2014, PG&E proposed a Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan (PSEP) to improve the large pipelines that carry natural gas.

TABLE 6-2: Electricity Infrastructure in the Peninsula District

Infrastructure	Lines (Miles)
Overhead	1,500
Underground	800
Transmission	400
Total	**2,700**

Source: Peninsula Division Book, PG&E, 2014.

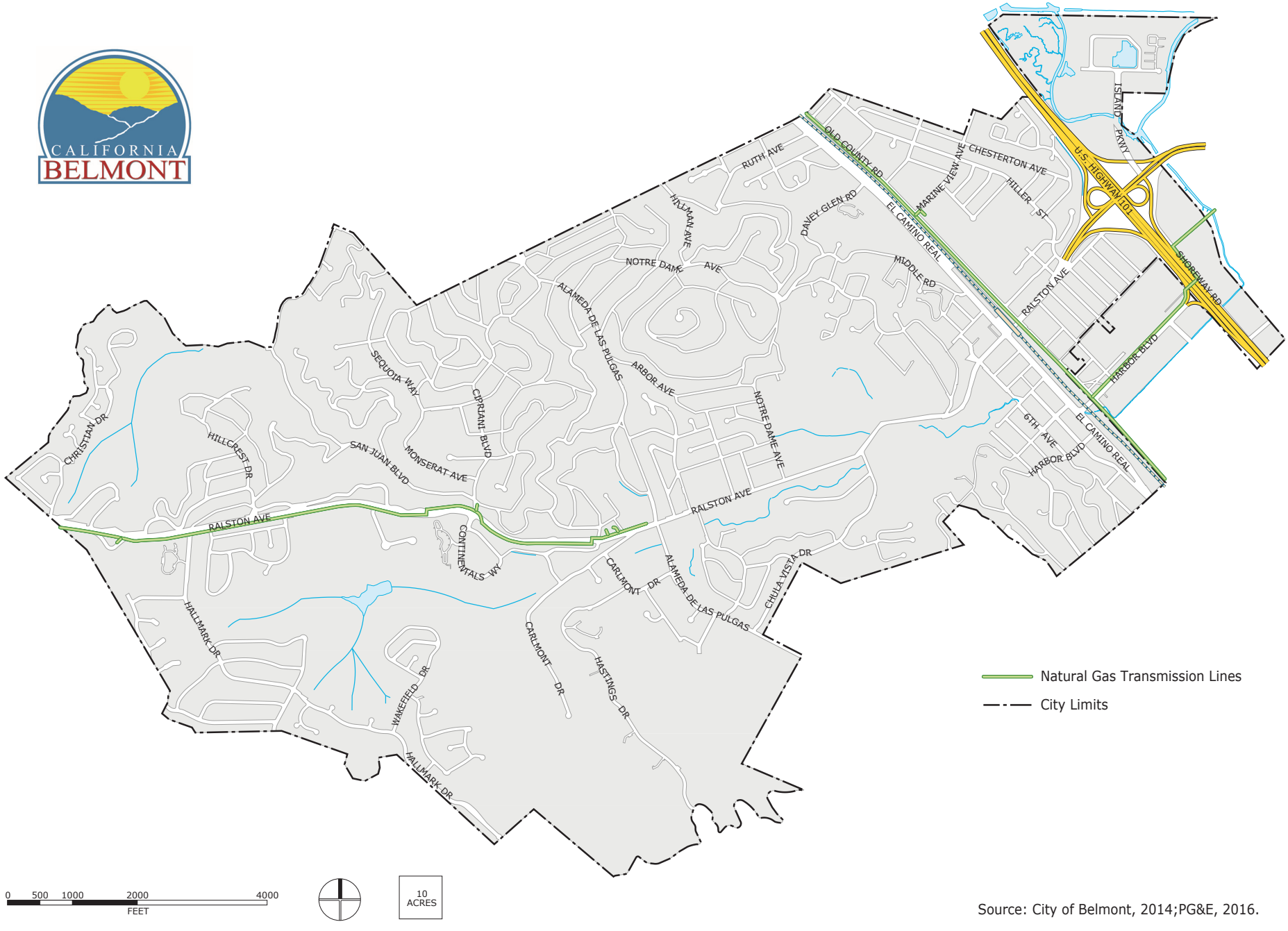
TABLE 6-3: Gas Infrastructure in the Peninsula District

Infrastructure	Lines (Miles)
Distribution	2,100
Transmission	100
Total	**2,200**

Source: Peninsula Division Book, PG&E, 2014.

The General Plan aims to maintain and improve public utilities to meet the demand of all Belmont's residents and businesses.

FIGURE 6-4: NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINES



Source: City of Belmont, 2014;PG&E, 2016.

The City of Belmont is developing the Old County Road Utility Undergrounding District Project, which aims to underground existing overhead electric facilities along Old County Road. The project involves several phases; Phase 1, which includes undergrounding of all overhead utilities south of Masonic Way to the San Carlos city limits, is fully funded and scheduled to be complete by mid-2018.

California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

The California Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires all energy-generating utilities and energy service providers in California to source 33 percent of the total energy production from renewable energy by 2020. As of 2016, 27 percent of PG&E's total energy production is from RPS-eligible resources, which PG&E obtained mostly through contracted third parties. More information on energy production and greenhouse gas emissions can be found in the Conservation Element.

Peninsula Clean Energy Authority

In early 2016, the City of Belmont joined a Joint Powers Agreement to create a Community Choice Aggregation program in San Mateo County, known as the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority. A Community Choice Aggregation is a program that enables city and county governments to pool the electricity demand of their communities for the purpose of supplying electricity. The

TABLE 6-4: Electricity Consumption in San Mateo County (millions of kWh)

Land Use	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Residential	1,613	1,625	1,595	1,566	1,598
Non-Residential	3,354	3,131	2,968	2,936	2,909
Total	**4,968**	**4,756**	**4,563**	**4,502**	**4,507**

Source: Energy Consumption Data Management System, State of California, 2014.

TABLE 6-5: Gas Consumption in San Mateo County (millions of Therms)

Land Use	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Residential	90	89	92	94	96
Non-Residential	132	133	135	130	132
Total	**222**	**221**	**227**	**224**	**228**

Source: Energy Consumption Data Management System, State of California, 2014.

The General Plan aims to maintain and improve advanced telecommunication infrastructure in Belmont.

Peninsula Clean Energy Authority is a non-profit organization that is governed by a board of directors comprised of city officials. All cities in San Mateo County have passed ordinances to join with the county to form the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority.

Beginning in October 2016, the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority now buys or develops power on behalf of the residents, businesses, and government electricity users in San Mateo County. The electricity continues to be distributed and delivered over the existing electricity lines by PG&E. This Community Choice Aggregation program allows customers to choose between electricity providers and between multiple power options, with a different amount of renewable energy content in each.

All residential and commercial customers in Belmont are also now part of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority's service territory. According to State regulations, Peninsula Clean Energy is an "opt-out" program, meaning that all electricity customers within the service territory are automatically enrolled with the option to return to PG&E service at any time.

TELECOMMUNICATION UTILITIES

Telecommunication utilities, including wireless facilities like cell towers and antennas, are becoming increasingly important in Belmont as demand grows in the region for new and emerging telecommunication services and facilities. The City maintains a section of the Zoning Ordinance that establishes procedures and regulations regarding telecommunications facilities, to ensure that adequate facilities are available for the Belmont community, while also ensuring that Belmont's visual qualities, physical diversity, and small-town characteristics are not compromised. Noise from telecommunication utilities is discussed in the Noise Element and, as an implementation action of the General Plan, will be addressed in the updated Noise Ordinance.

6.6 FIRE HAZARDS

Fire hazards in Belmont include both urban and wildland fires. Urban fires involve the uncontrolled burning of built structures due to human-made causes; wildland fires affect grassland, forest, and brush (and the structures on them), and can result from either human or natural causes. Belmont has a substantial risk of wildland fires, with many areas of high and very high threat within the Planning Area, particularly in the western areas of the city. The City's main challenges regarding these hazards are:

- **Actively Managing the Wildland Urban Interface.** Belmont's residents enjoy close contact with hillsides and woodlands. This natural amenity facilitates the risk of proximity to wildland fires. Preparedness is essential, and the Belmont Fire Department's fire prevention activities, especially its Vegetation Management Program, are important.
- **Maintaining and Enhancing Evacuation Routes.** It is critical that road capacity exists for local residents, workers, and visitors to evacuate in case of an environmental disaster, including fire.

URBAN FIRES

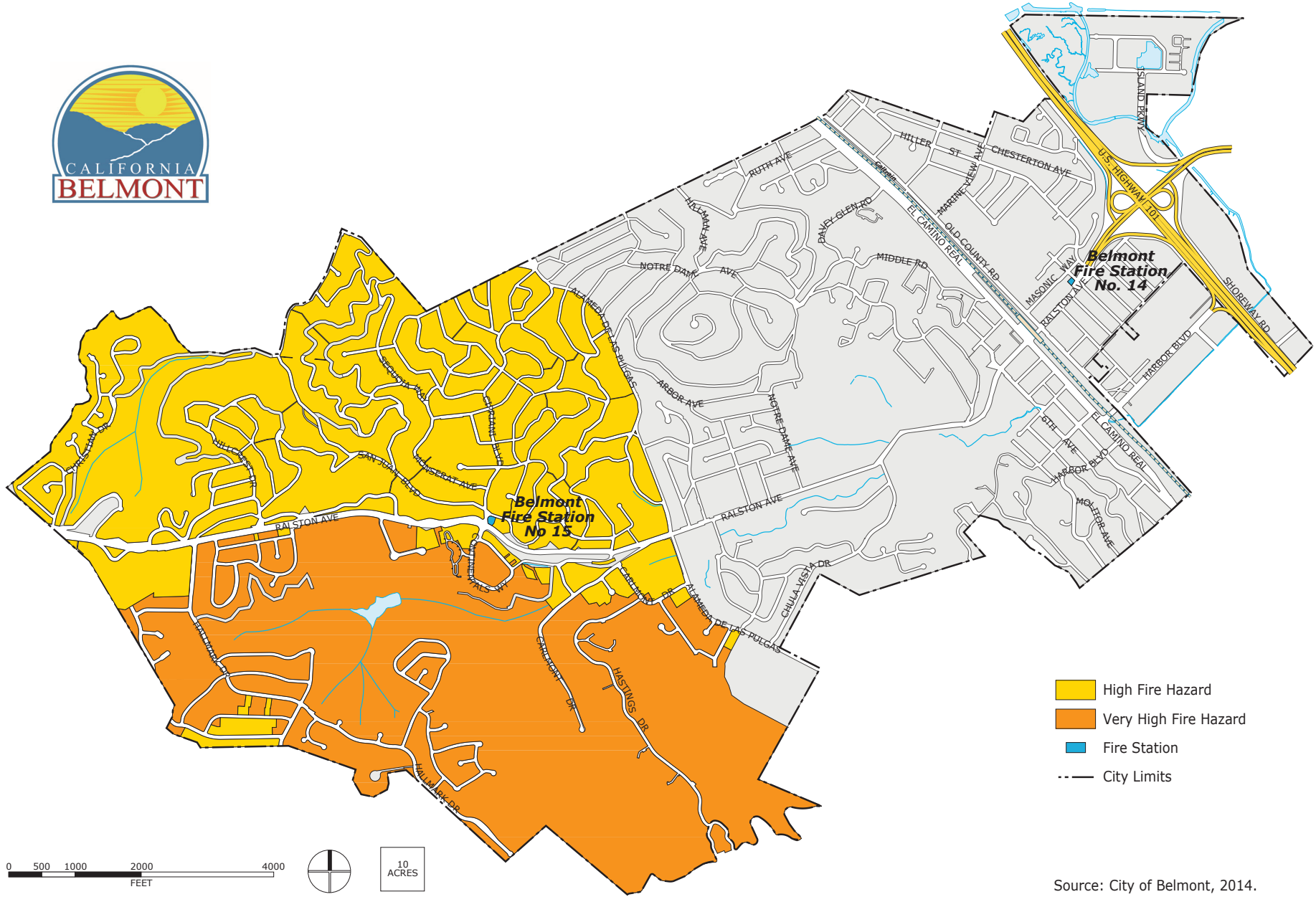
Urban fires are fires that begin in a building in urban centers. They are typically localized but have the potential to spread to an adjoining building. The risk of urban fires is highest where single-family homes, multi-family residences, and business facilities are clustered close together, increasing the possibility of rapid spread to an adjoining building. The risk to life and property can be reduced by adopting and funding adequate levels of fire protection and ensuring new buildings are built to include fire resistive features that conform to modern fire and building codes.

WILDLAND FIRES

Wildland fires are fires that start in a wooded or undeveloped area. Their potential for damage is dependent on the extent and type of vegetation, known as surface fuels, as well as weather and wind conditions. Wildland fires occur infrequently but typically cause more damage than urban fires.

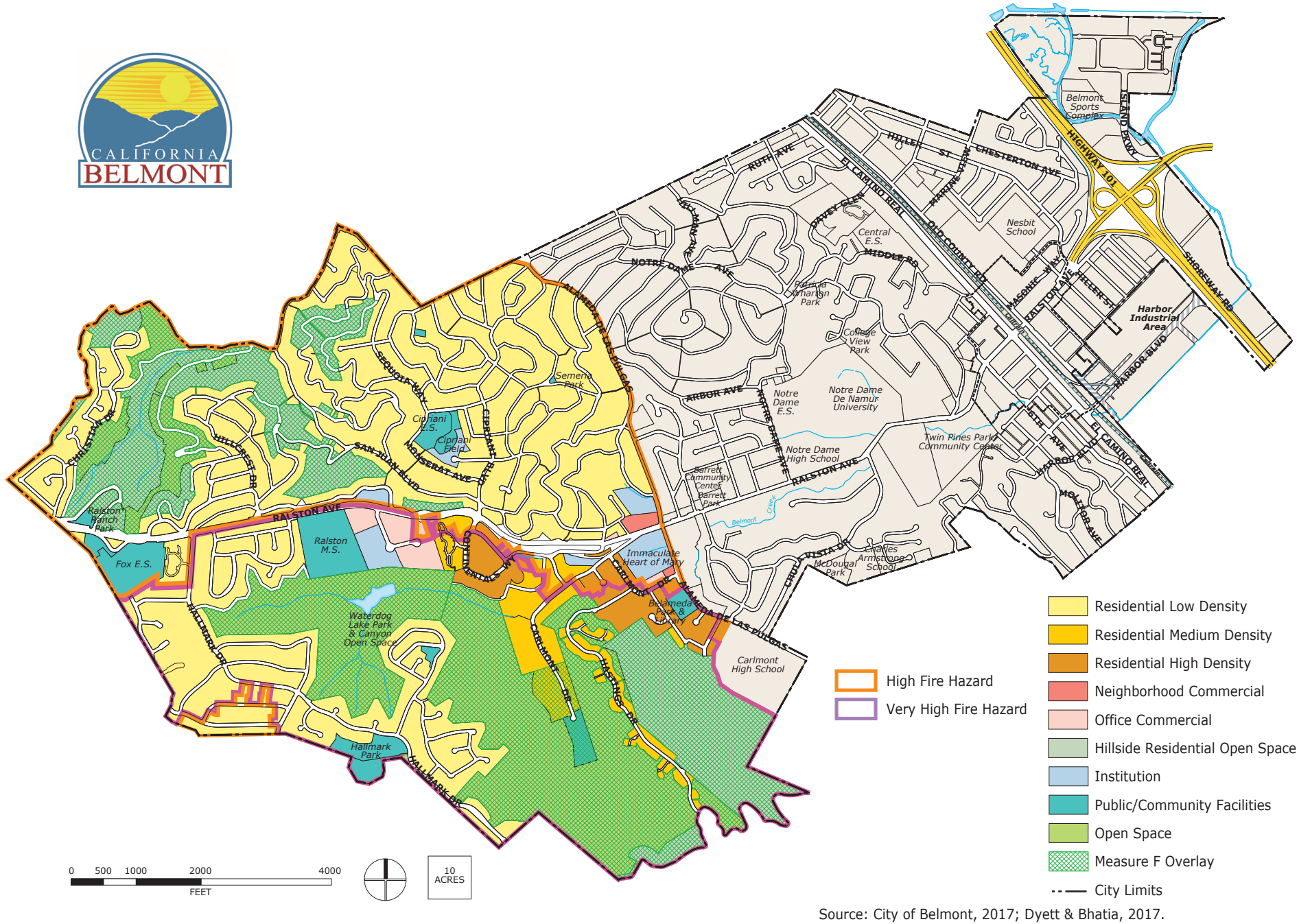
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) refers to heavily vegetated open spaces, often on steep slopes, that are close to human developments. Areas under WUI designation are at high risk of wildfire. There are two geographical areas within Belmont that can be characterized as WUI; the canyons common to the Western Hills and the San Juan Canyon. In these locations, many homes are located immediately adjacent to open space that includes the physical features found in WUI areas. The canyons of the Western Hills have been designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), while the San Juan Canyon has been designated as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Both WUI areas comply with the relevant fire protection regulation set by Government Code and California Building Code, as required by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire). Figure 6-5 shows the existing VHFHSZ within the city boundary, while Figure 6-6 shows the General Plan land use designations that fall within the VHFHSZ, which includes Davis Drive, though does not encompass additional vacant or underutilized sites outside of Davis Drive.

FIGURE 6-5: FIRE HAZARDS



Source: City of Belmont, 2014.

FIGURE 6-6: GENERAL PLAN LAND USE AND FIRE HAZARD AREAS



Source: City of Belmont, 2017; Dyett & Bhatia, 2017.

The Belmont Fire Protection District operates two fire stations in Belmont; Station 14 (pictured above) and Station 15.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Belmont Fire Protection District coordinates code enforcement with the Code Enforcement Unit in the police department, provides plan review and construction inspection; fire investigations; and public education. A key component of the District's program activities also includes their annual fire safety inspections of commercial businesses, places of assembly, multi-family residences, and hotels in its service area. It also conducts a Vegetation Management Program (VMP), promoting compliance with vegetation standards to reduce the threat of fire in the Wildland Urban Interface. The Belmont Fire Protection District is discussed in greater detail in the Public Safety and Emergency Management section below.

6.7 PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City's public safety and emergency management functions cover several roles that address the time before, during, and after a significant event, and are comprised of the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The California Emergency Services Act requires cities to prepare and maintain an Emergency Plan for natural, manmade, or war-caused emergencies that result in conditions of disaster or extreme peril to life. San Mateo County's Area Office of Emergency Services provides planning, preparedness, public information, training, and federal/State intergovernmental emergency services coordination for the cities and unincorporated areas within the county. Belmont has a member on the Emergency Services Council.

The City's Municipal Code addresses civil defense and disaster relief in Chapter 8. The City of Belmont responds to disasters in accordance with National Incident Management System (NIMS) at the federal level and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) at the State level. The City routinely participates in preparedness exercises utilizing these systems. In a disaster, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated and the City's emergency organization is called to the EOC on the second floor of City Hall. The City of Belmont has a written City Operations Plan (EOP), which articulates policies and procedures during an emergency. The City also has an Emergency Preparedness Manual, which was prepared in close cooperation with other agencies and promotes best practices for

emergency preparedness in Belmont. Trained citizen volunteers involved in the CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) are also a part of the City response system.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The purpose of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is to reduce or eliminate long term risk to human life and property resulting from hazards, by identifying risks before they occur and putting together resources, information, and strategies for emergency response. Local governments who adopt a hazard mitigation plan may be eligible for the following benefits: a more disaster resistant and resilient community; access to hazard mitigation assistance grants and programs; points under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS); and the waiver of the 6.25 percent local match for Public Assistance money following a disaster. The City first developed a LHMP in partnership with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in 2005 in the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJ-LHMP) for the San Francisco Bay Area. Belmont's LHMP was last updated as an annex to the County of San Mateo's multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan, which was updated and released September of 2016 (available for reference at http://planning.smcgov.org/local-hazard-mitigation-plan). Belmont's LHMP identifies specific actions the City is taking to mitigate impacts from flooding, earthquakes, wildfires, and other emergency events, as well as climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies.

POLICE

Facilities and Staffing

Located in Belmont's City Hall and shown on Figure 6-7, the Belmont Police Department is a full service police agency. Table 6-6 shows the staffing of the police department by divisions. In addition to full-time staff shown, the Police Department also receives support from Reserve Police Officers, Police Explorers, and Citizen Volunteers. The Belmont Police Department participates in the San Mateo County Sheriff's SWAT Team and Crisis Negotiation Unit, by providing both SWAT Operators and Crisis Negotiators.

The Department has specialized units of K9, SWAT, Crisis Negotiation, and Crime Scene Investigation, which are made up of personnel from various parts of the department. Assignment to these units is considered a collateral duty.

Response Time and Service Standards

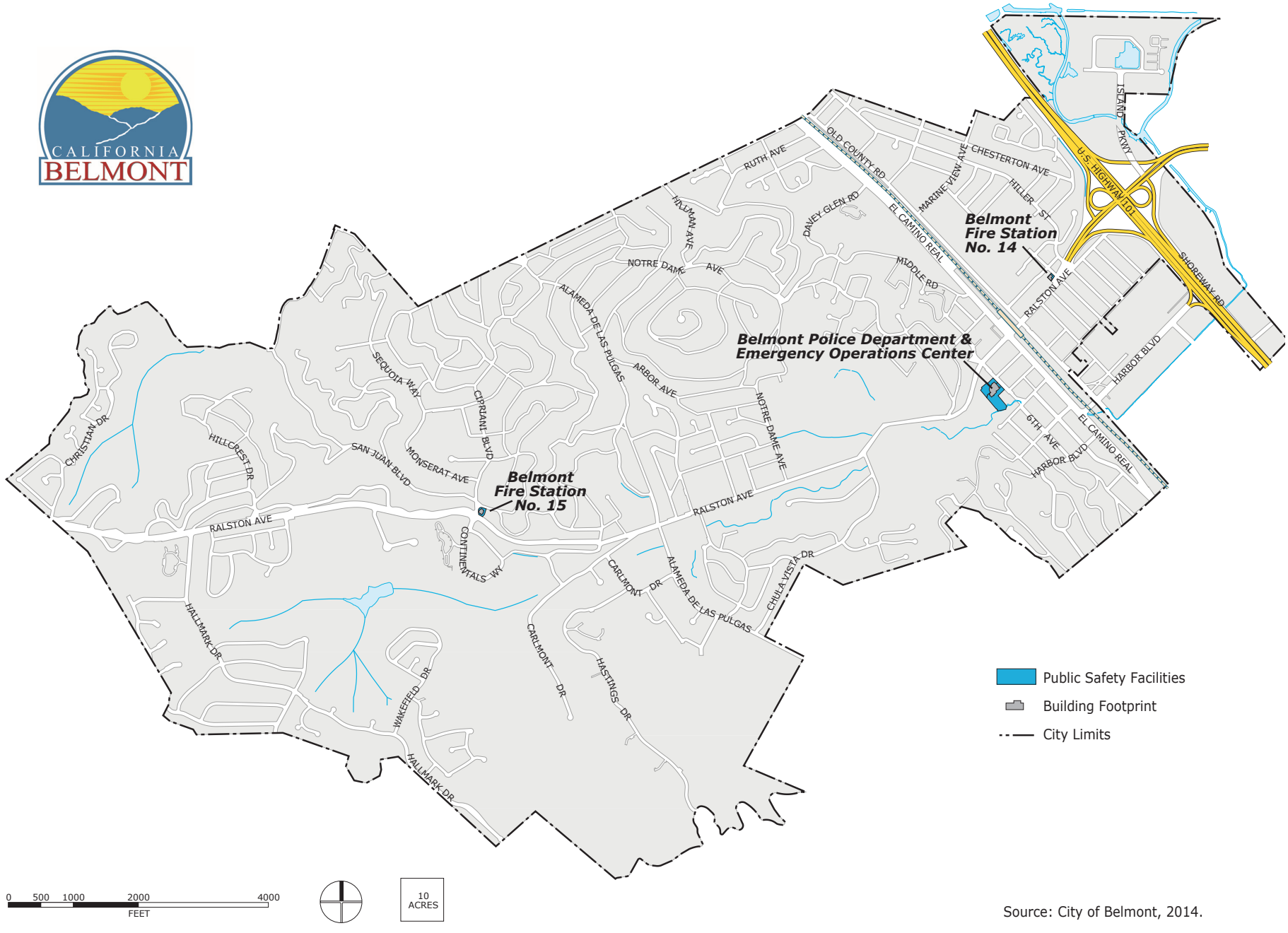
The Belmont Police Department has an average response time to Priority 1 calls of four minutes and a service ratio of 1.2 sworn officers per 1,000 residents. Currently, the Department does not have any standards set for its response time or service ratio.

TABLE 6-6: Belmont Police Department Staffing by Divisions

Divisions	Number of Employees
Administration	5
Operations Division	
Patrol	19
Traffic	2
Community Service	3
Code Enforcement	1
Support Services Division	
Records	3
Communications	5
Investigations	3
Youth Services/School Resources	2
Total	**43**

Source: City of Belmont, 2016.

FIGURE 6-7: PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES



Source: City of Belmont, 2014.

FIRE

Facilities and Staffing

The Belmont Fire Protection District operates two fire stations (Station 14 and Station 15), as well as a Fire Administration office. Table 6-7 provides a breakdown of the staffing and facilities of each station, and the two fire stations are shown on Figure 6-7. As part of a countywide fire service deployment plan, the City shares fire resources with other cities in San Mateo County. The jurisdictions altogether utilize 58 engine companies and seven truck companies.

Response Time and Service Area

The Belmont Fire Protection District is one of the designated Paramedic First Response Service Providers of the San Mateo County Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services Group. As such, all engines of the BFPD are required to maintain a 24/7 advanced life support (ALS) capability, and have a countywide response time standard of six minutes and 59 seconds for medical emergencies. In addition to the City of Belmont, the Belmont Fire Protection District is "first due" to the unincorporated HIA and portions of the cities of San Mateo and San Carlos because of their proximity to the District's facilities. The average response time for the District was five minutes and 10 seconds in 2014.

TABLE 6-7: Belmont Fire Department Staffing by Divisions

Stations	Staffing	Fire Engines	Other Key Equipment
Station 14	3 firefighters[1] per 24-hr shift	1 front line 1 reserve	1 U-14 (Utility Vehicles) 1 Hazmat Van
Station 15	3 firefighters[1] per 24-hr shift	1 front line 1 reserve	
San Mateo Fire Station 23	3 Firefighters (one per shift) and one Fire Captain	n/a	n/a
Fire Administration Building	1 Administrative Battalion Chief 1 Management Analyst	None	1 Staff Car 1 B-4 (Command Vehicles)

Notes:
1. Includes at least one firefighter/paramedic and one fire captain.
2. Part of San Mateo Fire Truck 23 along with Foster City Fire personnel as part of the three cities' Shared Truck Agreement.

Source: City of Belmont, 2016.

Insurance Service Organization (ISO) Rating

Fire departments are rated by ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) program. The program uses the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), which is comprised of a long list of elements a community may use to fight fires effectively. Each element is given a point score. Using the point scores and various formulas, ISO derives a PPC rating. On a scale of 1 (exemplary fire protection) to 10 (not meeting minimum criteria), the District scored a rating of 3.

Belmont Fire Code

The Belmont Fire Code was adopted in 2016 after the State of California's adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code (CFC). The Belmont Fire Code incorporates the 2016 CFC and Local Amendments proposed by the BFPD. The Local Amendments include modifications that are appropriate to the specific climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions of the District, such as way-finding and street access improvement, restricted use of fireworks, and requirements for sprinkler installations.

GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS

GOAL 6.1 Minimize risks of property damage and personal injury posed by geologic and seismic hazards.

Policy 6.1-1 Continue to maintain and enforce appropriate standards to ensure new development is designed to meet current safety codes and requirements associated with seismic activity. Require public and private development to be located, designed, and constructed to minimize the risk of loss of life and injury in the event of a major earthquake or other natural disaster.

Policy 6.1-2 Continue to regulate development, including remodeling or structural rehabilitation, to ensure adequate mitigation of safety hazards on sites having a history or threat of seismic dangers, erosion, landslides, or shrink swell.

Policy 6.1-3 Prohibit development in areas at risk of landslides or high or very high liquefaction as shown in Figure 6-1, or on slopes steeper than 30 percent, unless detailed site investigations by licensed engineers ensure that risks do not exist, or can be reduced to acceptable levels and the structure will be protected for its expected life.

Policy 6.1-4 Continue to require geotechnical site analysis for proposed development on sites as specified in the Municipal Code, prior to allowing site development.

Policy 6.1-5 Geotechnical studies shall identify any geologic hazards affecting the proposed project site, any necessary mitigation measures, and a statement of the site's suitability for the proposed development and whether or not it will be safe from geologic hazard for its expected life. The study shall identify net developable areas, if any, based on landslide or ground shaking potential or erosion risk. Impacts from the development, such as those resulting from increased water runoff, shall also be determined. Such studies must be signed by a licensed Certified Engineering Geologist or Geotechnical Engineer and are subject to review and approval by City staff and/or contracted employees.

Policy 6.1-6 Require any geotechnical studies to include the study of expansive and creeping soils, as well as analysis of erosion, seismic, and other geotechnical hazards, and make recommendations, as warranted.

Policy 6.1-7 Prohibit mitigation measures for potential geotechnical hazards if those measures could adversely affect surrounding property, including the use of public rights-of-way, or adversely affect public health, safety, and welfare.

Policy 6.1-8 Ensure consideration of seismic and geologic hazards at the earliest possible point in the development process, preferably before comprehensive engineering work has commenced.

Policy 6.1-9 Require real estate transactions, development approval processes, and property titles to declare known or suspected seismic or geologic hazards on a property, including areas suspected of high or very high risk of liquefaction, shrink swell, or landslide.

Policy 6.1-10 Identify and catalogue structures that may be subject to serious structural damage in the event of a major earthquake, such as unreinforced masonry and soft story buildings, and provide information to property owners on ways to pay for rehabilitation of existing buildings.

Policy 6.1-11 Support erosion prevention of hillside areas at risk of landslide, as identified in Figure 6-1, by revegetation or other acceptable methods.

Policy 6.1-12 Update Figure 6-1 as new data from official, reliable sources is released.

GOAL 6.2 Protect the community from risks to life and property posed by flooding.

Policy 6.2-1 Continue to pursue and implement flood control programs that reduce flood hazards, such as the City's Grading Ordinance and Flood Plain Management Ordinance.

Policy 6.2-2 Cooperate and coordinate with federal, State, and local jurisdictions and agencies involved in the mitigation of flood hazards from dam inundation, sea level rise, and major flood events.

Policy 6.2-3 Require all proposed drainage facilities to comply with the city's storm drainage facility requirements to ensure they are properly sized to handle 100-year flood conditions.

Policy 6.2-4 Seek to reduce flooding hazards by continuing to implement improvements and upgrades to the storm drainage system. *See also Goal 5.9 and Policy 5.9-1 in the Conservation Element.*

Policy 6.2-5 Working with the Office of Emergency Services and in partnership with San Mateo County, develop a strategy for addressing sea level rise and its impacts on affected land within Belmont. Utilize the San Mateo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update and implementation efforts to map and assess risk and develop appropriate mitigation.

Policy 6.2-6 Require installation of protective structures or other design measures to protect proposed building and development sites from the effects of flooding in 100-year Flood Zones.

Policy 6.2-7 Comply with all requirements of the California Department of Water Resources' Division of Safety of Dams to ensure adequate flood control for Notre Dame Dam.

Action 6.2-7a: Update Notre Dame Dam's emergency action plan, and adopt an evacuation plan for the area below the dam that could be subject to flooding in the event of dam failure.

Action 6.2-7b: Study and implement, as necessary, improvements that are needed for Notre Dame Dam that could prevent dam failure.

Policy 6.2-8 Comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements to identify flood hazard areas and control development within these areas in order for residents to qualify for federal flood insurance.

Policy 6.2-9 Periodically review maps prepared by FEMA and the State Department of Water Resources to identify changes in mapping of areas subject to flooding and amend the General Plan or Municipal Code as warranted.

Policy 6.2-10 Continue to comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requirements for municipal authorities to address water quality and flow-related impacts of stormwater runoff; continue to enforce NPDES permits in Belmont; and continue to participate in the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program.

Policy 6.2-11 Comply with Section 402(p) of the federal Clean Water Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, which requires NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from municipal storm sewer systems, stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity (including construction activities), and designated stormwater discharges.

Policy 6.2-12 Site critical public facilities, including hospital and healthcare facilities; emergency shelters; police and fire stations; and emergency communications facilities outside of the 100-year Flood Zones.

Policy 6.2-13 Continue to collaborate with regional stakeholders and agencies to identify and implement a long-term approach to address ongoing flooding issues, maintenance, and creek improvements for Belmont Creek, particularly in the lower portions of the creek. *See also Policy 5.4-1 in the Conservation Element.*

Policy 6.2-14 Support and implement the City's Loval Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Action Plan's adaptation strategies and measures that promote resiliency to sea level rise and increased flooding as a result of climate change. See also Policy 5.11.-3 in the Conservation Element.

GOAL 6.3 Protect soils, surface water, and groundwater from contamination from hazardous materials.

Policy 6.3-1 Facilitate clean up programs at contaminated sites, particularly on properties with the potential to develop or be reused for public purposes.

Policy 6.3-2 Require applicants for development projects in a potentially contaminated location to perform inspection and cleanup if the site is found to be contaminated with hazardous substances.

Policy 6.3-3 Require project applicants of potentially contaminated sites to have the site inspected by a registered Environmental Assessor. Reports detailing the results must be submitted for City review, and level of remediation and cleanup must be in compliance with federal and State standards.

GOAL 6.4 Continue to promote the reduction, recycling, and safe disposal of household and business hazardous wastes through public education and awareness.

Policy 6.4-1 Continue to support the hazardous waste collection, management, and inspection efforts of San Mateo County, the State, and the Water Resources Control Board.

Policy 6.4-2 Educate residents and businesses about household hazardous wastes, less toxic materials that can be used in place of toxic materials, and proper household and business hazardous waste disposal methods.

GOAL 6.5 Ensure that utilities that are essential to contemporary life are available and adequate to meet the demands of the Belmont community while also ensuring the utilities maintain and enhance Belmont's physical diversity, visual qualities, and small-town characteristics.

Policy 6.5-1 Facilitate the upgrading of utility facilities and services, including projects to improve utility safety. Support the development of infrastructure necessary for improved and emerging technologies that all residents may use and benefit from in Belmont, including communication technologies such as fiber optics.

Policy 6.5-2 Require new development to underground service lines and utilities, and continue to pursue and implement projects to underground existing overhead utility lines.

Action 6.5-2a: Develop a list of projects to pursue that could qualify for PG&E's Electric Undergrounding Program under the provisions of the company's Rule 20A.

Policy 6.5-3 Facilitate approval of telecommunication utility projects consistent with State and federal law, while ensuring that these projects have minimal negative impacts on the Belmont community.

Action 6.5-3a: Determine and specify which locations in Belmont are preferred locations for telecommunications utilities projections, such as parks or land already used for public utilities.

Action 6.5-3b: Update the *Zoning Ordinance* to include new procedures and regulations concerning the approval of telecommunication utilities projects, including wireless communications, cell phone, telephone, Internet, satellite, and cable television utilities, to facilitate compliance with State and federal law.

Action 6.5-3c: The updated procedures and regulations for telecommunication facilities projects should include: detailed instructions and clear requirements for what the City considers a complete application for a project; a citywide template for conditions of project approval; definition of ridgelines and vistas that should be protected; requirements for public noticing and hearings, including requirements for the applicant's participation; administrative procedures for City Staff across departments to ensure that applications are processed quickly and efficiently internally; clear sequencing when review is required by multiple bodies; and remedies for ongoing Code violations.

Policy 6.5-4 Approve new freestanding telecommunication towers only when no feasible alternatives exist.

Policy 6.5-5 Require all new development to be connected to the City's sewer system.

Policy 6.5-6 Continue participation in a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program. Protect Belmont residents and businesses from potential fire hazards.

GOAL 6.6 Protect Belmont residents and businesses from potential fire hazards.

Policy 6.6-1 Support efforts by the Belmont Fire Protection District to meet its response time standards throughout Belmont, especially in areas in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-2 Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to maintain adequate water supply for firefighting, including capacity for peak load under a reasonable worst case wildland fire scenario, to be determined by the Belmont Fire Protection District. In evaluating sites for new water storage facilities, place a priority on locations least subject to impacts from seismic activity and landsliding.

Policy 6.6-3 Continue to review development proposals to ensure that they incorporate appropriate fire-mitigation measures, including adequate provisions for evacuation and access by emergency responders.

Policy 6.6-4 Continue the Belmont Fire Protection District's participation in plan review of new buildings in potentially fire-prone areas.

Policy 6.6-5 Continue to require a fire prevention inspection of all buildings used as commercial businesses, places of assembly, multi-family residences, and hotels within the Belmont Fire Protection District's boundaries.

Policy 6.6-6 Promote and support the Belmont Fire Protection District's Vegetation Management Program to reduce fire hazards, particularly in areas in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Policy 6.6-7 Continue to participate in State and regional efforts to develop a clear legislative and regulatory framework to manage the Wildland Urban Interface.

> **Action 6.6-7a:** Maintain consistency with the San Mateo and Santa Clara Unit's Fire Management Plan to reduce wildland fires in both counties.

Policy 6.6-8 Continue educating the public about local fire hazard prevention programs, including landscaping with fire resistant plants between residential and open space areas, weed control, brush control, controlled burns, and placement of trails and roads to serve as firebreaks. Work cooperatively with the Belmont Fire Protection District to promote public awareness of fire safety and emergency life support.

Policy 6.6-9 Continue to require development located within the VHFHSZ to maintain 100 feet of defensible space consistent with California Government Code section 51182. *See also Policy 2.14-3 in the Land Use Element regarding defensible space.*

Policy 6.6-10 Continue to require development located within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to follow the code requirements in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code, and require buildings to be constructed of ignition-resistant materials and methods.

Policy 6.6-11 Lessen the risk of wildfire and maintain clear and safe access and evacuation routes in areas of high and very high fire hazard severity by continuing to enforce Belmont Municipal Code section 7-401, which classifies nuisances as, in part, overgrown vegetation; dead, decayed, diseased, or hazardous trees, firewood; weeds and other vegetation that may be a fire hazard.

GOAL 6.7 Foster an efficient and coordinated response to emergencies and natural disasters.

Policy 6.7-1 Adopt, maintain, and periodically update a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, coordinating with regional planning efforts as possible.

Policy 6.7-2 Continue to monitor changes in the Federal Disaster Act and applicable State laws, keep City officials and residents aware of the impacts of these changes, and update as necessary the City's Emergency Response Plan, which provides adequate response to disasters, including emergency ingress and egress, and defines the expected roles of City, County, and regional agencies.

Action 6.7-2a: Maintain and update the City's Emergency Response Plan.

Policy 6.7-3 Update City codes and ordinances dealing with public safety and emergency preparedness and relief to comply with State law and reflect the latest information on hazards and mitigation strategies.

Action 6.7-3a: Update the City's Municipal Code – Chapter 8, Civil Defense and Disaster Relief as needed.

Action 6.7-3b: Update the City's Fire Ordinance to comply with State law as needed.

Policy 6.7-4 Continue to upgrade preparedness strategies and techniques in all departments so as to be prepared when a disaster, either natural or man-made, occurs.

Policy 6.7-5 Develop effective mechanisms for a coordinated response to natural and man-made emergencies by:

- Conducting regular emergency planning meetings and disaster preparedness exercises with City departments, the Fire District, the County, medical centers, and other emergency service providers and relevant public agencies;
- Holding emergency drills that require all City staff to be adequately trained to handle different kinds of emergency scenarios; and,
- Coordinating with the County on regional emergency communications.

Policy 6.7-6 Work with the Mid-Peninsula Water District to ensure that it has a plan and infrastructure for providing adequate water service and storage, including peak load water supply requirements, during and immediately after an emergency, including a major seismic event.

Policy 6.7-7 Require companies providing public utilities in Belmont to have plans for reestablishing service in the event of a major seismic event or other natural disaster.

Action 6.7-7a: Work with the Belmont Fire Protection District to establish a plan for addressing redevelopment after a large fire.

Policy 6.7-8 Do not locate structures necessary for the protection of the public's health and safety, public assembly, or emergency services in hazardous areas, unless no reasonable alternative exists.

Policy 6.7-9 Ensure critical use facilities that are important to protecting health and safety in the community remain operational during an emergency.

GOAL 6.8 Provide a comprehensive program of safety services including police, fire, and medical response in Belmont.

Policy 6.8-1 Continue to respond without delay to all calls for police assistance as soon as possible consistent with normal safety precautions and vehicle laws. Establish and periodically review procedures and response times to ensure equitable service across the community.

Action 6.8-1a: Establish and strive to achieve response time and service ratio standards for the Police Department.

Policy 6.8-2 Continue to respond without delay to all calls for fire and emergency medical assistance as soon as possible consistent with normal safety precautions and vehicle laws. Periodically review procedures and response times to ensure equitable service across the district.

Policy 6.8-3 Periodically evaluate police and fire services to ensure that the City is providing adequate protection in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

Policy 6.8-4 Continue to partner with schools and youth organizations to conduct outreach and develop conflict resolution, and form proactive and creative community partnerships to enhance public safety.

GOAL 6.9 Support continuing public awareness of hazards, including avoidance, disaster preparedness, and emergency response procedures.

Policy 6.9-1 Initiate periodic public information programs that explain the City's emergency preparedness programs, including the emergency communications system, evacuation routes, the importance of defensible space, the Community Emergency Response Teams, and shelter locations.

Policy 6.9-2 Promote programs to educate the public concerning the nature of earthquake, fire, and flood hazards in Belmont and measures that individuals can take to reduce risk.

Policy 6.9-3 Encourage school districts, agencies, and organizations that work with vulnerable populations, such as seniors, to develop and carry out education programs on disaster preparedness and response needs.

GOAL 6.10 Make infrastructure investments, enforce regulations, and disseminate information that will improve disaster response and recovery, with the goal of minimizing damage to people and property.

Policy 6.10-1 Ensure that new roadways are developed in accordance with standards in the Municipal Code (Sec. 7-11) requiring all-weather access prior to issuance of building permit. In all new development, require adequate access to be provided for emergency vehicles, including adequate widths, turning radii, hard standing areas, and vertical clearance; also require home addresses and street signage to be visible.